

Message Text

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SUBJ: INTERN CONF ON NAMIBIE; FOLLOW UP

NEWS ADVOSORY: MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED DELEGATES, LEGAL EXPERTS, OFFICIALS FROM MANY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES AND MEMBERS OF SEVERAL UN SPECIALIZED INSTITUTIONS WILL WIND UP DISCUSSIONS AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NAMIBIA AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN DAKAR ON THURSDAY.

THE CONVERENCE WAS OPENED ON MONDAY IN THE SENEGALESE CAPITAL, WHERE PARTICIPANTS, AFTER A PLENERY SESSION, WENT TO WORK BEHIND CLOSED DOORS IN TWO SEPARATE COMMISSIONS. THE FIRST COMMISSION DEALT WITH HUMAN RIGHTS AS RELATED TO THE ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF NAMIBIA BY SOUTH AFRICA. THE SECOND COMMISSION HAD TO EXAMINE A VARIETY OF PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS RELATED TO THE FUTURE INDEPENDENCE OF NAMIBIA, PARTICULARLY WHAT CAN FRIENDLY NATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY DO TO SPEED UP THE PROCESS LEADING TO THE LIBERATION OF NAMIBIA FROM SOUTH AFRICAN RULE.

IT IS RECALLED AT THE DAKAR CONFERENCE THAT THE LAST EFFORT MADE BY THE UNITED NATIONS WAS TO SET UP A GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE (COMPOSED OF THE UNITED STATES, GREAT BRITIAN AND BRAZIL) WHICH WAS ASSIGNED THE MISSION TO SEEK AN AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH AFRICA WHICH WILL RECOGNIZE THE INTERNATIONAL STATUS

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OF NAMIBIA. BUT THE MISSION FAILED, BECAUSE THE SOUTH AFRICA

GOVERNMENT REJECTED THE POSITIONS PUT FORWARD BY THE UN COMMITTEE.

DISCUSSING IN LEGAL AND HISTORICAL TERMS THE NAMIBIAN ISSUE, PARTICIPANTS AT THE DAKAR MEETING RECALLED THAT NAMIBIA, ALSO KNOWN AS SOUTH-WEST AFRICA, WAS FORMERLY A GERMANY COLONY AND THAT FOLLOWING THE DEFEAT OF GERMANY IN WORLD WAR ONE,ONG TERRITORY WAS PLACED UNDER A SOUTH AFRICA MANDATE BY THE FORMER LEAGUE OF NATIONS. AFTER WORLD WAR TWO AND THE CREATION OF THE UN, SOUTH AFRICAN ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY CAME UNDER GROWING CRITICISM, AND A RESOLUTION VOTED A VEW YEARS AU CALLED FOR SOUTH AFRICA TO HANDOVER SOUTH WEST AFRICA TO THE UN. IN A RESOLUTION VOTED IN MAY 1967, THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SET UP A SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO ADMINISTRATE NAMIBIA, BUT THE PRETORIA GOVERNMENT NEVER ALLOWED MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE TO SET FOOT ON THE NAMIBIAN SOIL.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE SOUTH WEST AFRICAN PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION, SWAPO, NAMIBIA'S MAIN NATIONALIST MOUVEMENT, EMBARKED ON A GUERRILLA WAR AGAINST THE SOUTH AFRICAN ADMINISTRATION. SWAPO GUERRILLA FORCES FOUND REAR ECHELON BASIS AND SANCTUARIES IN NEIGHBORING ZAMBIA. INDEPENDENT ANGOLA IS ALSO LIKELY TO OFFER SWAPO MORE SANSTUARIES FROM WHERE ITS FORCES COULD LAUNCH FREQUENT ATTACKS INTO NAMIBIAN TERRITORY.

THE DAKAR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WHICH WILL END THURSDAY AFTERNOON IS EXPECTED TO COME UP WITH A DECLARATION AND RESOLUTION ON NAMIBIA, CONDEMNING ONCE AGAIN, THE SOUTH AFRICAN LACK OF COOPERATION WITH THE WORL RPT WORL COMMUNITY AND ITS STURBINESS RPT STURBINESS TO DISCONTINUE ITS ILLEGAL ADMINISTRATION OF NAMIBIA. ITEM.

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